

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A mounting system for a cleaning blade for a conveying belt having a widthwise extent, the mounting system comprising:

a mounting assembly having a) a first connecting portion through which a cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly and b) a mounting portion which can be attached to a support to maintain the mounting assembly in a desired operative position at a first widthwise location relative to a conveying belt that is to be cleaned so as to situate a cleaning blade joined to the mounting assembly in a first operative position,

the mounting assembly having a second connecting portion that is at least partially formed on the mounting portion assembly and is made accessible for use by reconfiguring a part of the mounting assembly and used in place of the first connecting portion through which a cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly so as to situate a cleaning blade joined to the mounting assembly in a second operative position substantially at the first widthwise location.

2. (previously amended) The mounting system according to claim 1 wherein the second connecting portion of the mounting assembly is made accessible for joining to a cleaning blade by removing a part of the mounting assembly.

3. (original) The mounting system according to claim 2 wherein the first connecting portion comprises a first connecting element which can cooperate with a connecting element on a cleaning blade to maintain a cleaning blade in the first operative position and the second connecting portion comprises a second connecting element which

can cooperate with a connecting element on a cleaning blade to maintain a cleaning blade in the second operative position.

4. (original) The mounting system according to claim 1 wherein the first connecting element comprises a first projection which can be press fit into a receptacle on a cleaning blade.

5. (original) The mounting system according to claim 4 wherein the first connecting portion comprises a first edge which can be directed into a receiving space on a cleaning blade and the first projection comprises a discrete element which extends away from the first edge.

6. (original) The mounting system according to claim 5 wherein the second connecting portion comprises a second edge which can be directed into a receiving space on a cleaning blade and the second connecting portion comprises a second projection comprising a discrete element which extends away from the second edge and can be directed into a receiving space on a cleaning blade.

7. (original) The mounting system according to claim 2 wherein the mounting assembly comprises a flat sheet and the first and second connecting portions have substantially flat first and second surface portions residing substantially within a single plane.

8. (currently amended) A mounting system for a cleaning blade for a conveying belt having a widthwise extent, the mounting system comprising:

a mounting assembly having a) a first connecting portion through which a cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly and b) a mounting portion which can be attached to a support to maintain the mounting assembly in a desired operative position relative to a conveying belt that is to be cleaned so as to situate a cleaning blade joined to the mounting assembly in a first operative position,

the mounting assembly having a second connecting portion that is at least partially formed on the mounting portion ~~and can be~~ assembly and accessible for use by reconfiguring a part of the mounting assembly and used in place of the first connecting portion through which a cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly so as to situate a cleaning blade joined to the mounting assembly in a second operative position substantially at the first widthwise location,

wherein the first connecting element comprises a first projection which can be press fit into a receptacle on a cleaning blade,

wherein the first connecting portion comprises a first edge which can be directed into a receiving space on a cleaning blade and the first projection comprises a discrete element which extends away from the first edge,

wherein the second connecting portion comprises a second edge which can be directed into a receiving space on a cleaning blade and the second connecting portion comprises a second projection comprising a discrete element which extends away from the second edge and can be directed into a receiving space on a cleaning blade,

wherein the second connecting portion of the mounting assembly is accessible for joining to a cleaning blade by removing a part of the mounting assembly from another part of the mounting assembly, and the mounting assembly is cut to define the second connecting portion and so that the part of the mounting assembly is integrally connected to the another part of the mounting assembly at a first location whereat the mounting assembly must be cut to separate the part of the mounting assembly from the another part of the mounting assembly.

9. (original) The mounting system according to claim 8 wherein the part of the mounting assembly is integrally connected to the another part of the mounting assembly at a second location spaced from the first location whereat the mounting assembly must be cut to separate the part of the mounting assembly from the another part of the mounting assembly.

10. (currently amended) A mounting system for a cleaning blade for a conveying belt having a widthwise extent, the mounting system comprising:

a mounting assembly having a) a first connecting portion through which a cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly and b) a mounting portion which can be attached to a support to maintain the mounting assembly in a desired operative position relative to a conveying belt that is to be cleaned so as to situate a cleaning blade joined to the mounting assembly in a first operative position,

the mounting assembly having a second connecting portion that is at least partially formed on the mounting portion and can be assembly and accessible for use by

reconfiguring a part of the mounting assembly and used in place of the first connecting portion through which a cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly so as to situate a cleaning blade joined to the mounting assembly in a second operative position substantially at the first widthwise location,

wherein the first connecting portion comprises a first receptacle into which a projection on a cleaning blade can be press fit.

11. (original) The mounting system according to claim 10 wherein the first connecting portion comprises a first edge which can be directed into a receiving space on a cleaning blade and the first receptacle is formed on the first edge.

12. (original) The mounting system according to claim 8 wherein the mounting assembly has a locating notch at the first location to facilitate cutting of the mounting assembly to separate the part of the mounting assembly from the another part of the mounting assembly.

13. (original) The mounting system according to claim 1 wherein the mounting assembly further comprises a third connecting portion that can be used in place of the first and second connecting portions and through which a cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly so as to situate a cleaning blade joined to the mounting assembly in a third operative position.

14. (original) The mounting system according to claim 1 in combination with a cleaning blade joined to the mounting assembly.

15. (original) The mounting system according to claim 14 further in combination with a conveying belt wherein the cleaning blade is urged against the conveying belt.

16. (currently amended) In combination:

a) a cleaning blade for a conveying belt having a widthwise extent; and  
b) a mounting assembly having i) a first connecting portion through which the cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly and ii) a mounting portion which can be attached to a support to maintain the mounting assembly in a desired operative position at a first widthwise location relative to a conveying belt that is to be cleaned so as to situate the cleaning blade in a first operative position,

the mounting assembly having a second connecting portion that is at least partially formed on the mounting portion ~~and is assembly and~~ accessed for use by reconfiguring a part of the mounting assembly and used in place of the first connecting portion through which the cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly so as to situate the cleaning blade in a second operative position substantially at the first widthwise location.

17. (original) The combination according to claim 16 wherein the second connecting portion of the mounting assembly is accessible for joining to the cleaning blade by removing a part of the mounting assembly.

18. (original) The combination according to claim 17 wherein the first connecting portion comprises a first connecting element which can cooperate with a connecting element on the cleaning blade to maintain the cleaning blade in the first operative position and the second connecting portion comprises a second connecting element which can cooperate with the connecting element on the cleaning blade to maintain the cleaning blade in the second operative position.

19. (original) The combination according to claim 16 wherein the first connecting element comprises a first projection which can be press fit into a receptacle on the cleaning blade.

20. (original) The combination according to claim 19 wherein the first connecting portion comprises a first edge which can be directed into a receiving space on the cleaning blade and the first projection comprises a discrete element which extends away from the first edge.

21. (original) The combination according to claim 20 wherein the second connecting portion comprises a second edge which can be directed into a receiving space on the cleaning blade and the second connecting portion comprises a second projection comprising a discrete element which extends away from the second edge and can be directed into the receiving space on the cleaning blade.

22. (original) The combination according to claim 17 wherein the mounting assembly comprises a flat sheet and the first and second connecting portions have substantially flat first and second surface portions residing substantially within a single plane.

23. (currently amended) In combination:

a) a cleaning blade for a conveying belt having a widthwise extent; and  
b) a mounting assembly having i) a first connecting portion through which the cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly at a first location and ii) a mounting portion which can be attached to a support to maintain the mounting assembly in a desired operative position at a first widthwise location relative to a conveying belt that is to be cleaned so as to situate the cleaning blade in a first operative position,

the mounting assembly having a second connecting portion that is at least partially formed on the mounting portion assembly and can be accessed for use by reconfiguring a part of the mounting assembly and used in place of the first connecting portion through which the cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly so as to situate the cleaning blade in a second operative position substantially at the first widthwise location,

wherein the first connecting element comprises a first projection which can be press fit into a receptacle on the cleaning blade,

wherein the first connecting portion comprises a first edge which can be directed into a receiving space on the cleaning blade and the first projection comprises a discrete element which extends away from the first edge,

wherein the second connecting portion comprises a second edge which can be directed into a receiving space on the cleaning blade and the second connecting portion comprises a second projection comprising a discrete element which extends away from the second edge and can be directed into the receiving space on the cleaning blade,

wherein the second connecting portion of the mounting assembly is reconfigured by removing a part of the mounting assembly from another part of the mounting assembly, and the mounting assembly is cut to define the second connecting portion and so that the part of the mounting assembly is integrally connected to the another part of the mounting assembly at a first location whereat the mounting assembly must be cut to separate the part of the mounting assembly from the another part of the mounting assembly.

24. (original) The combination according to claim 23 wherein the part of the mounting assembly is integrally connected to the another part of the mounting assembly at a second location spaced from the first location whereat the mounting assembly must be cut to separate the part of the mounting assembly from the another part of the mounting assembly.

25. (original) The combination according to claim 16 wherein the cleaning blade comprises a projection and the first connecting portion comprises a first receptacle into which the projection on the cleaning blade can be press fit.

26. (original) The combination according to claim 25 wherein the first connecting portion comprises a first edge which can be directed into a receiving space on the cleaning blade and the first receptacle is formed in the first edge.

27. (original) The combination according to claim 23 wherein the mounting assembly has a locating notch at the first location to facilitate cutting of the mounting assembly to separate the part of the mounting assembly from the another part of the mounting assembly.

28. (original) The combination according to claim 1 wherein the mounting assembly further comprises a third connecting portion that can be used in place of the first and second connecting portions and through which the cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly so as to situate the cleaning blade joined to the mounting assembly in a third operative position.

29. (original) The combination according to claim 16 further in combination with a conveying belt wherein the cleaning blade is urged against the conveying belt.

30. (currently amended) A method of situating a cleaning blade in an operative position wherein the cleaning blade can be urged against a conveying belt, the conveying belt having a widthwise extent, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mounting assembly with a first connecting portion through which the cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly so as to situate the cleaning blade in a first operative position of a first widthwise location;

reconfiguring the mounting assembly; and

after reconfiguring the mounting assembly, joining the cleaning blade to a second connecting portion on the mounting assembly so as to situate the cleaning blade in a second operative position substantially at the first widthwise location.

31. (Previously Canceled)

32. (currently amended) A method of situating a cleaning blade in an operative position wherein the cleaning blade can be urged against a conveying belt having a widthwise extent, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mounting assembly with a first connecting portion through which the cleaning blade can be joined to the mounting assembly so as to situate the cleaning blade in a first operative position at a first widthwise location;

joining the cleaning blade to a second connecting portion on the mounting assembly so as to situate the cleaning blade in a second operative position substantially at the first widthwise location, and

reconfiguring the mounting assembly to provide the second connecting portion, wherein the step of reconfiguring the mounting assembly comprises removing a part of the mounting assembly to expose the second connecting portion on another part of the mounting assembly.

33. (original) The method of situating a cleaning blade in an operative position according to claim 32 wherein the second connecting portion comprises an edge with a discrete connecting element at the edge and further comprises the step of preforming at least a part of the discrete connecting element with the part and the another part of the mounting assembly integrally connected.

34. (original) The method of situating a cleaning blade in an operative position according to claim 33 wherein the step of preforming at least a part of the discrete element comprises cutting through the mounting assembly.

35. (original) The method of situating a cleaning blade in an operative position according to claim 33 wherein the step of preforming the discrete element comprises cutting through the mounting assembly using a laser beam.